

RI 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of

September 5, 2012

EDC Office, 315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI

1. Chairman Ted Sanderson called the meeting of the RI 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission to order at 2:05 P.M at the Offices of the RI Economic Development Corporation and asked for a call of roll.

2. The following members were present:

a. Eric Hertfelder, Steven Lubar, John McNiff, Jon Stevens, Patrick Conley, Gary Fischer, Gwenn Stearn, Rosanna Gorham, C. Morgan Grefe, Sue Ellen Kroll, Evan Smith, Stanley Lemons, Jennifer Wood, Ruth Taylor, Ken Yellis, David Leach, Betty Capozzi, Martha Sheridan, Kamlyn Keith, Jim Wermuth, Paul Campbell, Mark Brodeur and Paul Caranci

3. Upon a motion by Jim Wermuth, second by Jennifer Wood, the minutes of the April 23, 2012 were unanimously approved.

4. Commissioner Stevens summarized the Work Plan that was approved by the Executive Committee noting that the objective of this meeting is to discuss the plan with the hope of approving it. The meeting will be run in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and should not exceed 2 hours. See attached Work Plan.

a. According to Commissioner Stevens the Governor and Secretary of

State will issue a formal announcement by the end of September. He also summarized the grant application activity to date.

b. Commissioner Caranci reported that Secretary Mollis hopes to organize the trip to the MA Archives before the end of September. Commissioner Stevens suggested that anyone who has not already been to the MA Archives may want to attend. Commissioner Caranci agreed to notify the Commission members once a date and time have been selected.

c. Commissioner Stevens reported that the plans for the Visitor's Center that will be in Room 140 of the State House are on track through partnerships that may require a pilot program initially until funding is made available by the General Assembly. Commissioner Conley offered a consignment arrangement so the 109 publications at the RI Publication Society may be sold at the Visitors Center. He also noted that there is an opportunity to publish an updated version of the 1986 book on the 6 RI State Houses. Commissioner Stevens indicated that we may be able to explore the possibility of funding the \$23,000 cost of publication with a grant.

d. Commissioner Stearn Summarized the activity of the Exhibition Committee with regard to the status of the Charter Room.

i. All cost associated with the restoration of that room will be absorbed by the Department of Administration using funds from an existing State House restoration capitol bond fund.

ii. Restoration work will include:

1. Painting of the walls

2. Raising the ceiling by 2 or 3 feet

- 3. Installation of track lighting for exhibition purposes**
- 4. Re-lettering of the door**
- 5. Installation of temperature and humidity monitoring system**
- 6. Installation of a new HVAC system**
- 7. Installation of a security system with monitoring cameras**
- 8. The carpet will remain as is but may be cleaned**

iii. The Secretary of State has expressed interest in allowing the Commission to use four oak display cases that are used by his office for use in the Charter Room. The group viewed the two empty cases located on the 2nd floor center stairwell and deemed them appropriate for the display of documents not in need of special climate controls apparatus. Some thought was given to potential uses of these cases with a suggestion that they be used to display items related to RI government history and the origins of the idea of religious liberty. Other suggestions and ideas were also discussed. Co-Chair Stearn suggested that we might issue a call for nominations for ideas and documents to display.

iv. The Committee will also explore the possibility of digitizing some documents for future use in rotating displays.

e. Commissioners Capozzi and Hertfelder summarized plans for the main celebration. The Commission needs to secure a headliner such as author John Barry and a British representative. To achieve the objectives of the Celebration Committee it is necessary to acquire the services of an event planner. Commissioner Stevens announced that contact has been made with John Barry and he is interested in participating in the celebration for a small honorarium. He could

serve as a headliner at the State House event or participate as a stand-alone. The plans will proceed more steadily once the Governor and Secretary of State make their announcement at the end of September. The family day is tentatively planned for June 22, 2013 while the main fundraiser will take place the following day on June 23rd.

f. Commissioner Stevens reported that retired Supreme Court Justice Bruce Selyer agreed to assist us with the plan to bring a current or retired member of the US Supreme Court to Rhode Island to participate in an event. He is optimistic of success.

g. Commissioner Kroll discussed the need to create a communication plan. The Secretary of State's website can't functionally serve as the group's website. She would like to pursue development of a podcast series and has reached out to RI PBS who expressed interest in hosting a program in their studio. We now need to hone the projects to determine where the focus should lie. Commissioner Sanderson added that he has been in touch with several rangers of the National Park Service and ideas are being developed for a podcast style similar to the Park Ranger program "On the Blackstone." Commissioner Keith noted that the podcast concept can be used by teachers focusing on themes that align with current social studies standards. Ideas can be solicited using a focus group of social studies teachers as well as the RI Social Studies Association's list serve.

5. Upon a motion by Commissioner Lemons, seconded by Commissioner Conley, the Work Plan was unanimously adopted.

Chairman Sanderson recognized the hard work of Commissioner Stevens and the members of the various committees for bringing us to this point.

6. Chairman Sanderson adjourned the meeting at 3:31 P.M.